Message Text

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R 151628Z JUL 77 FM USMISSION GENEVA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9247 INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS AMEMBASSY ROME AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

EO 11652: N/A TAGS/ ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: GATT COUNCIL -- THROWN SILK

REF: STATE 163450

1. IN PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH EC REPS (ABBOTT, DUGIMONT) REGARDING U.S. ART. XXIII COMPLAINT AGAINST JAPAN ON THROWN SILK, DUGIMONT INDICATED EC HAS HAD SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS WITH JAPAN UNDER ART. XXII:1 OF GATT OVER PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. DUGIMONT PPOINTED OUT THAT ITALY, THE CONCERNED MEMBER STATE, HAS BEEN UNABLE TO SHIP THROWN SILK TO JAPAN SINCE FEBRUARY BECAUSE OF JAPANESE REFUSAL TO ISSUE LICENSES, AND THE EC HAS MADE NO PROGRESS IN DISCUSSIONS WITH JAPAN. ABBOTT'S FIRST REACTION TO U.S.ICOUNCIL INITIATIVE IS THAT THE EC PROBABLY CAN SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING PARTY OR PANEL, BUT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO GO SO FAR AS SEEKING A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNCIL DECISION FINDING THE JAPANESE IN CONTRAVENTION OF GATT AND AUTHORIZING THE U.S.ITO TAKE RETALIATORY ACTION. ABBOTT POINTED OUT THAT THE JAPANESE WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONTEST THE FACTS, ARGUING THAT THE JAPANESE ACTION IS CONSISTENT WITH STATE TRADING PROVISIONS OF GATT ART. XVII AND THAT WP OR PANEL WILL BE NECESSARY TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE. ABBOTT INDICATED EC ALSO LIKELY

TO BE RELUCTANT TO PUSH ISSUE IN COUNCIL BECAUSE ITALY HAS LONG HISTORY OF RESTRICTIONS AGAINST RAW SILK IMPORTS FROM FAR EAST.

2. WE AND EC AGREED TO MEET AGAIN WEEK OF JULY 18 AFTER EACH HAS RECEIVED MORE DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS AND SUPPORTING MATERIAL.VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: SILK, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, TRADE COMPLAINTS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 15-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009 Disposition Event:

Disposition Event:
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GENEVA05857
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:** Film Number: D770253-0882

Format: TEL

From: GENEVA

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770754/aaaabull.tel

Line Count: 69 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4952c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION STR

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: 77 STĂTE 163450

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 02-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1851814 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: GATT COUNCIL -- THROWN SILK TAGS: ETRD, IT, JA, US, GATT, EEC

To: STATE

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4952c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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